



**Appropriations Committee  
Public Hearing – February 21, 2017  
*H.B. No. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE  
THIRTIETH 2019, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.***

**Chastity Mitchell  
Northeast, Government Relations Director  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

I am Chastity Mitchell, NE Government Relations Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of America headquartered in Atlanta, GA. I've come today to thank for historically supporting the Neighborhood Youth Center funding within the Department of Education. This investment in part, has supported the 57,000 kids who need us most, being served by the sixteen Boys & Girls Clubs in 23 cities throughout Connecticut.

Today - I am compelled to testify in opposition to the proposed reduction and consolidation of Neighborhood Youth Center funding included in the biennium budget in H.B. 7027. This critical funding for kids and clubs will be consolidated into a pool of funds called Student Support Services. This funding shift is insufficient to meet the desired objectives and dilutes the state's ability to adequately serve the students across the state.

Boys & Girls Club's afterschool and summer learning programs keep young people safe, provide opportunities for improving academic success, building character and leadership skills and increase health and fitness.

Clubs in Connecticut are uniquely poised to provide a world-class club experience which assures all members are on track to graduate and success is within reach to EVERY young person who enters our doors. We can't do that without this continued investment. Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee and I request you maintain the Neighborhood Youth Center funding through the Department of Education.

Chastity Mitchell  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America - Office of Government Relations  
Northeast Director, Government Relations  
(c) 615.308.0505 (o) 615.982.6130  
CMitchell@BGCA.org